

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023
OF
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The first regular Commission meeting for June 2023 of the Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Thurston County was called to order on June 13, 2023, and commenced at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners Chris Stearns, Linda Oosterman, and Russell E. Olsen were present for the hybrid meeting hosted via Zoom video conferencing and in-person at District Headquarters, located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, Washington 98503. The following personnel were also present:

- John Weidenfeller, General Manager (GM)
- Julie Parker, Assistant General Manager (AGM)
- Jim Campbell, Director of Field Operations (DFO)
- Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance (DPC)
- TaSeana Tartt, Finance and Customer Service Manager (FCSM)
- Kalelia Gipson, Customer Service Representative (CSR) and Associate Clerk to the Board
- Kurin Miller, Administrative Services Coordinator (ASC) and Clerk to the Board

Call to Order:

Commissioner Stearns called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Consent Calendar:

Approval of Minutes: May 23, 2023

Prequalification of Contractors: None

Correspondence: None

Voucher Approval:

- 1) Accounts Payables: May 24, 2023, May 31, 2023, June 7, 2023
- 2) Payroll: June 5, 2023

Other:

- 1) Grant Authorization to Allow Commissioner Olsen Authorization to Seek Funding for the Green Cove Creek Culvert Replacement Project and to Work with PUD Staff on the Dashboard and Financial Model Development
- 2) Resolution 23-22, Tanglewilde-Thompson Place 600 Mainline Replacement Engineering Contract
- 3) Resolution 23-23, General Manager Authority Update
- 4) Reschedule Regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, to 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented; Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comment: None

Information or Discussion of Operations/Policy Issues:

Discussion – Commission Meeting Updates and Virtual Attendance

AGM Parker presented a timeline of Commission meetings and changes proposed by the Board. Commissioner Olsen will not attend the regular Commission meetings on July 10th, July 25th, and August 8th.

Discussion – Preliminary 2024 Budget Priorities

AGM Parker spoke briefly about the due date for priorities for the 2024 Budget.

Reminder – WPUDA Quarterly Water Committee Meeting

GM Weidenfeller spoke briefly about the virtual WPUDA Water Committee meeting scheduled on Thursday, June 29, 2023. Commissioner Stearns asked about the agenda item on water system acquisitions, receivership, and consolidations, and Commissioner Oosterman asked about income requirements and financial assistance related to this topic. GM Weidenfeller addressed the Commissioners' questions.

Briefing – HB 1329 Preventing Utility Shutoffs for Nonpayment During Excessive Heat – Recommended Policy

FCSM Tartt reported on recommended policy changes to the District's disconnection procedures related to HB 1329 which goes into effect on July 23, 2023. Each Commissioner asked questions regarding the recommended changes and shared their concerns about the challenges presented by this legislature. The Board discussed this topic at length with GM Weidenfeller and FCSM Tartt.

Briefing – Pacific Underwriters Sale to Brown & Brown Inc.

AGM Parker gave an update regarding the sale of Pacific Underwriters to Brown & Brown, the District's new Health and Welfare Administrator. Commissioner Stearns, Commissioner Oosterman, and staff spoke about public risk underwriters, regionalized reorganization, and increased costs or reduced coverage due to fire hazards in the Pacific Northwest and California.

Action/Approval Items:

Resolution 23-20, Construction Contract for CCE 521 Mainline Replacement

Commissioner Stearns asked about the amount of the contract's contingency, and DPC Gubbe addressed the Commissioner's question. **Commissioner Olsen made a motion to approve Resolution 23-20 as presented; Commissioner Oosterman seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.**

Commissioner Signatures/Break: None

Presentations:

GM Weidenfeller invited the Board to attend the hybrid Washington Water Utilities Council (WWUC) meeting on Friday, June 23rd; the meeting will be hosted in-person at PUD Headquarters and is also available to attend virtually via Zoom. He also reported on obtaining PFAS grant funding. Commissioner Oosterman asked GM Weidenfeller to elaborate on Ecology's update to Policy 2030 and mitigation. The Board spoke with GM Weidenfeller about this topic at length.

Commissioner Stearns asked about PFAS rulemaking. GM Weidenfeller spoke about a letter he submitted regarding the rulemaking, and the Commissioner reported more information about this topic.

AGM Parker reported on a meeting she recently attended with the District's new risk representative with the Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA). The AGM also reported on open recruitments at the District, including Field Technicians and an Accounting Assistant. The Board discussed this topic with staff at length.

Commissioner Stearns asked for a summary on the routine maintenance performed at the Walczak 620 water system from DFO Campbell. DPC Gubbe spoke about the work on the wells at the Pattison 500 water system.

Commissioner Topics, Discussions, and Reports:

Commissioner Olsen was not able to attend the recent Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) meeting. The Commissioner reported on personal matters.

Commissioner Oosterman spoke about an article in the Chronicle that she was included in, and she shared her experience with the Packwood fire burn. The Commissioner spoke about her frustration with the Emergency Management group in Thurston County; the Board and GM Weidenfeller added to the discussion.

Commissioner Stearns attended the recent TRPC meeting, and he reported on the topics covered at that meeting. The Commissioner also recently attended meetings for the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and the Chehalis Basin Partnership.

Executive Session:

At 6:16 p.m., Commissioner Stearns announced that the Board would enter into an Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency, as authorized by RCW 42.30.110(i) for 20 minutes until 6:36 p.m. At 6:36 p.m., the Executive Session was extended for five minutes until 6:41 p.m. At 6:41 p.m., the Executive Session concluded, and the regular meeting resumed. The District's attorney was present for the Executive Session, but no decisions were made by the Board.

Adjournment: Commissioner Oosterman made a motion to adjourn: Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Assignments:

- 1) Reschedule and advertise for the following regular Commission meeting changes:
 - a. Reschedule regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, to start at 3:00 p.m. instead of 5:00 p.m.
 - b. Reschedule regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, to Monday, July 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

- c. Reschedule regular Commission meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, to Monday, September 25, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) Excuse Commissioner Olsen for the regular Commission meetings scheduled on the following dates:
 - a. Monday, July 10, 2023
 - b. Tuesday, July 25, 2023
 - c. Tuesday, August 8, 2023
- 3) Obtain a mailing address and phone number for Commissioner Stearns on the east coast.
- 4) Provide Commissioner Stearns with a brief written summary of the maintenance work performed at the Walczak 620 water system.

Christopher Stearns

[Christopher Stearns \(Jun 27, 2023 15:44 PDT\)](#)

Chris Stearns, Commissioner and President

Attest:

Russell E Olsen

[Russell E Olsen \(Jun 27, 2023 15:50 PDT\)](#)

Russell E. Olsen, Commissioner and Secretary











Minutes 06132023

Final Audit Report

2023-06-27

Created:	2023-06-27
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